

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

-----078362 210319Z /64

R 200850Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 817

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJECT: STUDENTS MORE STRIDENT

1. DELEGATION OF STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF NORTH SUMATRA (USU) WAS RECEIVED BY DPRD (REGIONAL LEGISLATURE) CHAIRMAN H. MAS SUKARDI ON JANUARY 19. DELEGATION SANG PATRIOTIC SONG AND PRESENTED LEGISLATORS WITH GIFT, A MIRROR INTO WHICH LEGISLATORS WERE ENTREATED TO LOOK AT THEMSELVES AS SERVANTS OF PEOPLE WHO SAT ONLY FIVE YEARS BEFORE BEING JUDGED AGAIN BY THE MASSES.

2. POSTERS CARRIED BY STUDENTS WERE QUITE STRIDENT, INCLUDING ONE READING, "WANTED: A NEW RI PRESIDENT. QUALIFICATIONS: NOT WILLING TO ACT AGAINST THE OATH OF OFFICE; WHO IS WILLING TO UPHOLD LAW AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS; WHO WILL NOT ENRICH HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY; WHO IS NOT AMBITIOUS TO BECOME PRESIDENT FOR LIFE AND WHO IS NOT HENPECKED." ETHNIC FRICTIONS, TOO, WERE APPARENT, WITH ONE PLACARD ALLEGING, "OFFICIALS ARE OWNED BY SENGs (SLANG FOR WEALTHY CHINESE), WHO ARE FIRST CLASS CITIZENS. WHAT HAPPENS TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE?" DPRD CHAIRMAN REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO ANSWER STUDENTS' CHARGES AND, AFTER TEXTS OF

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THE VARIOUS POSTERS WERE READ ALOUD, THE STUDENTS DISPERSED QUIETLY.

3. COMMENT: SLOGANS OF RECENT STUDENT ACTIONS ON JAVA HAVE FINALLY PERCOLATED UP TO SUMATRA, THOUGH THERE IS NO SIGN OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF OUTSIDE AGITATORS IN LOCAL STUDENT AFFAIRS OR EVEN OF CLOSER COORDINATION

BETWEEN JAVA AND SUMATRA STUDENT GROUPS. LOCAL SECURITY OFFICIALS EVIDENTLY ALLOWED STUDENTS FREE REIN TO EXPRESS GRIEVANCES, BELIEVING PROBABLY THAT, UNLESS PROVOKED BY AUTHORITIES, STUDENTS' ENTHUSIASM FOR FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD COOL. ONLY TIME WILL PROVE THE WISDOM OF THE AUTHORITIES' JUDGEMENT IN THIS REGARD. IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN, HOWEVER, THAT IF THESE MANIFESTATIONS OF STUDENT DISCONTENT PERSIST, SECURITY OFFICIALS WILL FEEL FORCED TO CRACK DOWN, MOST LIKELY BY CONFINING THE YOUNGSTERS TO CAMPUS AND PROHIBITING EVEN ON-CAMPUS DEMONSTRATIONS. SUCH A MOVE WOULD MEET WITH LITTLE RESISTANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY RECTOR, HARRY SUWONDO, WHO IS AN ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014